

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 13146 01 OF 02 081825Z

53

ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 ISO-00 COME-00 GSA-01 INT-01 NEA-06

EA-07 AGR-03 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-03

AID-05 FMC-01 OIC-01 DRC-01 /056 W

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R 081721Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4609

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN

SUBJ: RUBBER: IRSG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

REF: STATE 218320

1. LONDON REPS OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RUBBER STUDY GROUP (IRSG) MET MORNING OF OCTOBER 7 AND COVERED ALL ITEMS ON PROVISIONAL AGENDA TRANSMITTED BY LONDON A-727.

2. US REP ARGUED AGAINST INCLUSION OF ITEM 7, RE MEASURES DIMINISH PRICE FLUCTUATIONS, IN PROPOSED DECEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA, DRAWING UPON ARGUMENTS IN PARA 2G, REFTEL. CHAIRMAN, DELL OF UK HOWEVER FELT STRONGLY THAT IRSG OWED IT TO SELF TO FOCUS ISSUE AND "FIND OUT WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT." HIS EFFORTS TO ELICIT SUBSTANTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LONDON REPS OF PRODUCER COUNTRIES RESULTED IN LITTLE MORE THAN VAGUE EXPRESSIONS THAT MATTERS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED. JAPAN AND FGR REPS BOTH STRONGLY ASSERTED VIEW THAT MATTER WAS OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE TO BE TREATED ON GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL AND NOT LEFT TO AD HOC ADVISORY PANEL. FGR REP POINTED OUT SOME INDICATION OF PRODUCERS' VIEWS WAS ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE FOR

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PAGE 02 LONDON 13146 01 OF 02 081825Z

CONSUMERS TO FORM THEIR POSITIONS.

3. US REP SUCCEEDED IN CONVINCING MEETING THAT FULL BLOWN DISCUSSION AS EARLY AS DECEMBER WOULD BE PRE-MATURE AND PROBABLY DEVISIVE, PARTICULARLY SINCE UNCTAD DISCUSSIONS NOT DUE TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE FEBRUARY. CHAIR THEN PROPOSED THAT DISCUSSION BE POSTPONED FOR THE MARCH MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (SEE PARA 4(G) BELOW). HE STRESSED THAT THIS ITEM SHOULD BE THE MAJOR AGENDA ITEM OF THAT MEETING AND THAT ALL MEMBERS SHOULD COME PREPARED TO DISCUSS IT, ON THE BASIS OF (A) THE RESULTS OF UNCTAD, AND (B) ANY PRODUCER VIEWS GENERATED BY THE JANUARY 1975 MEETING OF ANRPC. COMMENT. IN CONVERSATION FOLLOWING MEETING, DELL SAID HIS EFFORTS TO FORCE MATTER TO A HEAD WERE BORN OF FRUSTRATION WITH PRODUCERS, WHO EITHER UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO SAY WHAT THEY WANTED. FOR WHATEVER MOTIVE, ALL REPS OTHER THAN THE US REP--AND POSSIBLY THE USSR--SEEMED TO AGREE WITH HIM THAT THE GROUP SHOULD FACE THE ISSUE.

4. OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) ITEM 2 - THE AD HOC ADVISORY PANEL. THIS WILL HOLD FIRST MEETING OCTOBER 9, 10, 11, SHOULD HAVE PAPERS PREPARED BY SPRING 1975.

(B) ITEM 3 - MARITIME TRANSPORTATION OF RUBBER. SECRETARIAT REPORTED THAT LITTLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN EFFORTS TO INDUCE ECAFE TO CONTINUE THE STUDY OF THE MARITIME TRANSPORTATION OF NATURAL RUBBER.

(C) ITEMS 4, 5, AND 9 - STATISTICS. KELLETT NOTED PROGRESS TOWARDS ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS (ITEM 5), SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE REPRESENTA-

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PAGE 01 LONDON 13146 02 OF 02 081825Z

53

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TIVES FROM INDONESIA, JAPAN AND EASTERN EUROPE--
PERHAPS THE USSR LONDON REP, MR. MITROFONOV--SERVE
ON COMMITTEE IN ADDITION TO THOSE LISTED. RE ITEM 9,
CONCERNING THE QUARTERLY REVIEW OF STATISTICAL TRENDS,
ALL REPS EXPRESSED SUPPORT OF IDEA, ALTHOUGH SOME,
PARTICULARLY PRODUCERS, WERE WORRIED RE POSSIBILITY
OF DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN OFFICIAL GOVERNMENTAL DATA AND
ESTIMATES IN QUARTERLY. DELL FELT THIS OBJECTION COULD
BE OVERCOME BY PRESENTING DOCUMENT AS AN INFORMAL CON-
TRIBUTION BY KELLETT IN CONSULTATION WITH HIS
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS.

(D) ITEM 6 - AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION. THESE
WERE CONSIDERED RAPIDLY AND MINOR CHANGES WERE
SUGGESTED. A NEW TEXT WILL BE CIRCULATED LATER.

(E) ITEM 8 - INVITATION TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO JOIN
THE GROUP. IRAN, BULGARIA AND PHILIPPINES WERE ADDED
TO LIST.

(F) ITEM 10 - OTHER BUSINESS. IT WAS AGREED THAT
THE PRICE OF IRSG PUBLICATIONS SHOULD BE INCREASED.
TWO FURTHER ITEMS, AN UNCTAD QUESTIONNAIRE ON RESEARCH,
SUBMITTED SOMETIME AGO AND A PROPOSAL FOR A CLEARING
HOUSE ARRANGEMENT FOR INFORMATION FOR SMALL PRODUCERS
WERE DEFERRED UNTIL MARCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
PENDING SECRETARIAT STUDIES.

(G) ITEM 11 - TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT EXECUTIVE
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PAGE 02 LONDON 13146 02 OF 02 081825Z

COMMITTEE MEETING. WITH REMOVAL OF ITEM 7 FROM
PROVISIONAL AGENDA, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THERE WAS
INSUFFICIENT MATERIAL FOR A FULL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING IN DECEMBER. THEREFORE, A MEETING OF LONDON REPS
WAS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 9 AND A FULL
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING FOR MARCH 20-21.

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